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# INDIAN NAMES

*of*  
WASHINGTON



# Indian Geographic Names of Washington

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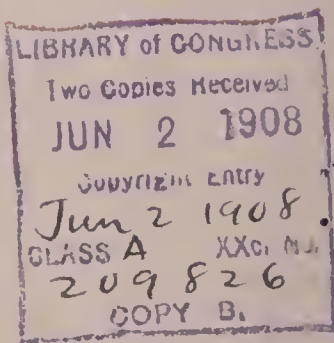
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## A Word about the Indian Names of the State of Washington



THE popular conception that the "Chinook Language" is the "Siwash Language" is doubly incorrect. Chinook is not a language and Siwash is not the name of the western Indian. Chinook is merely a jargon and Siwash is simply a Chinook word meaning man, and could as properly be applied to a white man if the real meaning be followed. The Chinook jargon was invented by Capt. Cook and his party of explorers for use in dealing with the various tribes of Puget Sound Indians, supplemented later by Vancouver and his men, and spread broadcast by fur dealers and others. It is composed of words taken from different tribal languages, mixed with French and English words; and is so simple in its construction that it not only served its purpose with the white man to talk with the Indian, but was speedily acquired by the different tribes, themselves, for use in communicating with their neighbors, for the native language of one tribe was strange to and not comprehended by another -- there were thirty-six dialects on Puget Sound, all different.

IN those early days, this jargon spread until it was used by the Indians, and their pale-faced visitors, from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean, and from California to Mount St. Elias in Alaska. Beyond Mount St. Elias the line was sharply drawn and the Chinook was unknown, the Indians there using their own language, with a little English and a great deal of Russian. This curious Volapuk or Esperanto of the early explorers consists of about three hundred unrelated words. A few of these words, only, are found among the geographic names of the state of Washington, and most of these are undoubtedly taken from the native Indian language, but not always from the language of the natives who live where the name was applied, because the geographic term was applied after the Chinook jargon had spread from tribe to tribe.

THERE is little or no literature on this subject, at the present time, but the origin and meaning of these geographic terms will some day be carefully traced and recorded, but not until a vast amount of careful research has been made. In the meantime, it is worth while to preserve and continue the use of these Indian terms; and to facilitate their correct pronunciation, orthography and location this booklet has been prepared. The Government has in progress a pamphlet on the Indian county names of Washington, giving their pronunciation and meaning.


## Indian Names in Common Use as Geographic Terms in the State of Washington

**I**n an effort is here made to indicate the correct pronunciation, spelling and location of the Indian geographic terms of Washington. A most common mistake is made in the pronunciation of the words Alki and Leschi. These words are almost invariably pronounced as though the final vowel were long, whereas the proper pronunciation places the accent on the first syllable, with the final vowel short. Wahkiakum, Cathlamet, Conconnully, Kalama, Olalla, Puyallup, Seattle, Spokane and Tenino are other words which perhaps the majority of us mispronounce habitually. The compiler will be grateful for any corrections of or additions to this list.



**AHTANUM** (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short), a river in Yakima County.

**ALKI** (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the second vowel is also short, as if it were spelled "Alky"), a point opposite the city of Seattle.



ALMOTA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; both other vowels are short), a town in Whitman County.

ALPOWA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the first vowel is short and the last one broad, as if followed by "h"), a town in Garfield County.

ASOTIN (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; both other vowels are short), a county and city in the southeastern corner of the state.


CALISPELL (accent on the last syllable, in which the vowel is short; both other vowels are also short), a mountain, lake and town in Stevens County.

CATHLAMET (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; both other vowels are also short), a town in Wahkiakum County.

CHEHALIS (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the first vowel is long and the last one short), the name of a river, a county and a city in the southwestern part of the state.

CHELAN (accent on the last syllable, in which the vowel is short; the first vowel is also short), the name of a county, a lake, a town and a range of mountains.

CHEWELAH (accent on the second syllable in which the vowel is long; the first vowel is short and the last vowel takes the broad sound as usual when "a" is followed by "h"), a town in Stevens County.



CHICO (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel takes the sound of long "e;" the last vowel is long), town in Kitsap County.

CHIMACUM (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; both other vowels are also short), a town in Jefferson County.

CHINOOK (accent on the last syllable; the first vowel is short), a town in Pacific County, on the Columbia River, near its mouth.

CLALLAM (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the last syllable is also short), name of a county and a bay in the north-western corner of the state.

CLE-ELUM (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the last vowel is also short, but the first vowel is long), a town in Kittitas County.

CONCONULLY (accent on the third syllable; all the vowels are short), county seat of Okanogan County.

COWLITZ (accent on the first syllable; both vowels are short), name of a river and a county.

DEWATTO (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is sounded as though followed by "h;" both other vowels are short), a creek and town in Mason County.

DUCKABUSH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the second vowel is also short, but the last vowel has a longer sound as in "push"),

a creek and town in Jefferson County.

DWAMISH (accent on the first syllable and the vowel broad as if followed by "h;" the last vowel is short), a river flowing into Seattle harbor.

ELWAH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short), a river in Clallam County near Port Angeles.

ENETAI (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long; the second vowel is short and the last is pronounced as a long "i"), a town in Kitsap County.

ENTIAT (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; both other vowels are also short), a ridge of mountains in Chelan County.

ENUMCLAW (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long; the second vowel is short), a town in King County.

HOH (an explosive word of one syllable, in which the vowel is long), name of a river and a small Indian reservation in Jefferson County.

HOQUIAM (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long; the "i" in the second syllable has the sound of long "e," and the last vowel is short), name of a river and city in Chehalis County, on Gray's Harbor.

HUMPTULIPS (accent on the second syllable, in which the "u" has the sound as in rule; both other vowels

are short), a river in Chehalis County.

ILWACO (accent on the second syllable, in which the "a" has the sound of "o" in "not;" the first vowel is short and the last one long), a city in Pacific County, at the mouth of the Columbia River.

ISSAQUAH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the second vowel is also short), a city in King County.

KACHEES (accent on the last syllable, in which the vowels are long; the first vowel is short), a mountain lake in western part of Kittitas County.


KALAMA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the first vowel is also short, but the final vowel is broad, as if followed by "h"), county seat of Cowlitz County, on the Columbia River.

KAMILCHE (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the first vowel is also short; the final vowel has the long sound, but receives but slight stress, as if it were "y"), a town in Mason County, near Shelton.

KANASKET (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the other vowels are also short), a town in King County.

KEECHELUS (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowels are long; the other vowels are short), a mountain lake in the western part of Kittitas County.

KENNEWICK (accent on the first syllable, in which



the vowel is short; the other vowels are also short), a town in Benton County, near the Northern Pacific Railway bridge over the Columbia River.

KIONA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the first vowel is long, but the final one is broad, as if followed by "h"), a town in Benton County.

KITSAP (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the second vowel is not only short, but it is slighted in pronunciation, as if it could be indicated thus, "Kit-s'p"), name of a county.


KITTITAS (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the other vowels are also short), name of a county.


KLICKITAT (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the other vowels are also short), name of a county.

LATAH (accent on the last syllable, in which the vowel has the usual broad sound of "a" followed by "h;" the first vowel is short), a town in Spokane County.

LESCHI (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the last vowel is long and the "c" is soft), name of an Indian chief, given to a park in Seattle.

LILLIWAUP (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the second vowel is short and the





diphthong has the sound of "wop"), river and falls in Mason County.

LUMMI (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the final vowel is also short), an island near Bellingham Bay and an Indian reservation near by.

MUCKILTEO (accent on the third syllable, in which the vowel is long; the vowels in the first and second syllables are short, while the final one is long), a town in Snohomish County, near Everett.


MUCKLESHOOT (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short), name of an Indian reservation in King County.

NACHES (accent on the last syllable, in which the vowel is long; the first vowel is short), pass through the Cascade Mountains near the boundary between Pierce and King Counties.

NAHCOTTA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; both the other vowels have the broad sound of "a" followed by "h"), name of an Indian chief and of a town on the ocean beach of Pacific County, near Ilwaco.

NEAH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long), bay in Clallam County, near Cape Flattery.

NESPELEM (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long, both other vowels short), town in





Okanogan County, on the Colville Indian Reservation.

NEWAUKUM (accent on the second syllable, with the usual sound for that diphthong; the first vowel is long and that in the final syllable is short), name of a prairie and a town near Chehalis, in Lewis County.


NISQUALLY (accent on the second syllable, which is pronounced as though spelled "kwahl;" both other vowels are short), name of the river forming the boundary between Thurston and Pierce Counties.

OLALLA (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long; the second vowel is short and the final one broad, as if followed by "h"), town in King County.

OLEQUA (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long; the second vowel is also long, and the final "a" is broad, as if followed by "h"), creek and railway station in Cowlitz County.

OKANOGAN (there is a slight accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long, and a heavier accent on the third syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowels in the second and fourth syllables are both short), name of a river and a county.

OZETTE (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the initial vowel is long; the final vowel is not pronounced), name of a lake, river and Indian reservation on the ocean side of Clallam County.



PALOUSE (accent on the second syllable, in which the diphthong has the sound of "u" in "lute;" the first vowel is short and the final one is ignored; the word is sometimes spelled Pelooos in the journals of early travelers, which gives a better idea of its pronunciation), name of a river and a city in Whitman County.

PATAHA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel has the broad sound of "a" followed by "h," as has also the final vowel, while the first vowel is short), name of a town in Garfield County, near Pomeroy.

PENAWAWA (accent on the third syllable, in which the vowel has the broad sound of "a" followed by "h," as has the final vowel; the first two vowels are short; locally the final syllable is sometimes pronounced as though spelled "wee"), a creek and town in Whitman County.

PESHASTIN (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the first syllable is long and in the last syllable short), a mining town in Chelan County.

POTLATCH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short), a milling town on Hood canal, in Mason County.

PUYALLUP (the stumbling block in the pronunciation of this name is the letter "y," which could easily be spared from the word, as it is of no use in pronunci-

ation; accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the first vowel is long and the last one short), name of a river and city in Pierce County.

PYSHT (the vowel is short), town in Clallam County, on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

QUEETS (the "ee" is as in "sweet"), river in the northwestern corner of Chehalis County.

QUILCENE (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the "i" in the first syllable is short and the final "e" is ignored), town on Hood Canal in Jefferson County.

QUILLAYUTE (accent on the third syllable, in which the vowel is long; the "i" in the first syllable is short, as is the vowel in the second syllable; the final vowel is ignored), name of a river and a small Indian reservation on the ocean side of Clallam County.

QUINAIELT (accent on the final syllable; the vowels in the first two syllables are short, but in the last syllable a broad "a" sound is used as if the word were spelled Quiniahl), name of a lake, river and large Indian reservation in the northwestern corner of Chehalis County.

SALTEESE (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowels are long; the final "e" is ignored; the first vowel has the sound of "a" in the ordinary word "salt"), the name of an Indian chief and of a lake in the eastern part of Spokane County.

SAMISH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the second syllable is also short), name of a bay in Skagit County.

SATSOP (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short, as is also the vowel in the second syllable), name of a river and town in Chehalis County.

SEATTLE (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the first syllable is long, and the final syllable has the usual sound of "tle," as in "battle"), the county seat of King County.


SKAGIT (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the second syllable is also short and the "g" is soft), name of a river and a county.

SKAMANIA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; all the other vowels are short), name of a county on the Columbia River.

SKOKOMISH (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the vowel in the first syllable is also long, while that in the final syllable is short), name of a river and an Indian reservation in Mason County.

SKOOKUM (accent on the first syllable; the vowel in the final syllable is short), name of a river in Lewis County.

SKYKOMISH (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the vowel in the first syllable is



long, and that in the last syllable short), a river in Snohomish County.

SNOHOMISH (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the vowel in the first syllable is long and that in the final syllable is short), name of a river and a county.


SNOQUALMIE (accent on the second syllable, in which the "a" is broad as if spelled "kwahl;" the vowel in the first syllable is long), name of a river in King and Snohomish Counties.


SPOKANE (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the first syllable is long; the final "e" is ignored), name of a river, a county and a city.

STEHEKIN (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the vowels in the first and last syllables are short), a town at the head of Lake Chelan in Chelan County.

STEILACOOM (accent on the first syllable, in which the two vowels have the sound and value of a short "i;" the vowel in the second syllable is short, and the two vowels in the final syllable have the same sound as in "boom"), a city in Pierce County.

STILLAGUAMISH (accent on the third syllable, in which the "a" has the broad sound as if followed by "h;" the other vowels are all short), a river in Snohomish County.





SWINOMISH (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the second vowel is long, and that in the final syllable is short), a slough and an Indian reservation in Skagit County.

TACOMA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the first vowel is short, and the final one is broad, as if followed by "h"), the county seat of Pierce County.

TATOOSH (accent on the second syllable; the first vowel is short), name of an island off Cape Flattery at the northwestern corner of the state.


TEKOA (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is long; the "o" in the second syllable is long and the final "a" is usually ignored in pronunciation), a town in the northwestern part of Whitman County.

TENINO (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the first vowel is short and the final vowel is long), a town in Thurston County.

TOPPENISH (accent on the first syllable; all the vowels are short), a town in Yakima County.

TULALIP (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is long; the "u" in the first syllable has the sound of "oo" and the vowel in the final syllable is short), name of a bay and an Indian reservation in Snohomish County.

TUMTUM (accent on the first syllable; both vowels are short), name of a town in Stevens County.



WAH KIA KUM (accent on the second syllable, in which the "i" is long; the first "a" has the usual sound when followed by "h" and the other two vowels are short; an effort to shorten the "i" and to transfer the accent to the "a" following has not succeeded), name of a county on the Columbia River.

WALLA WALLA (slight accent on the first syllable of each of the two words; all the vowels have the broad sound as if followed by "h," some early writers spelling the word "Wollah"), name of a river, a valley, a county and a city.

WALLULA (accent on the second syllable, in which the "u" has the sound of "oo;" each of the other vowels has the broad sound as if followed by "h").

WASHTUCNA (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; each of the other vowels sounds as if followed by "h"), a town in Adams County.

WAWAWAI (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel sounds as if followed by "h," which is also the case in the first syllable; the last syllable is pronounced as if spelled "wee"), a town on the Snake River, in Whitman County.

WENAS (accent on the second syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the first syllable is long), name of a river and a town in Yakima County.

WENATCHEE (accent on the second syllable, in which



the vowel is short; the other vowels are long), name of a lake, a river and a city in Chelan County.


WHATCOM (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel sounds as if followed by "h;" the vowel in the second syllable is short), name of a lake, a creek and a county.

WILLAPA (the accent seems to be divided between the first and last syllables with a little more of the stress on the last; the last vowel is broad as if followed by "h," while the other two vowels are short), the name of a river and town in Pacific County, and now the name of Willapa Harbor has supplanted the old and misleading name of Shoalwater Bay.

WISHKA (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short and the final vowel sounds broad as if followed by "h.")

WYNOOCHE (accent on the second syllable; the first vowel is long and the final "che" is pronounced as if spelled "chie"), a river in Chehalis County.

YAKIMA (accent on the first syllable, in which the vowel is short; the vowel in the second syllable is also short, while the final vowel is broad as if followed by "h"), the name of a river, a county and a city.



HERE ends the Book *of* Indian Geographic Names *of* Washington, as compiled by Prof. Edmond S. Meany *of* the University *of* Washington, *and* published by *The* Hyatt-Fowells School, which is the business college that is "A little better than seems necessary," *and* which is located at the corner *of* Pine & Broadway, Seattle.



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